

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9-2024**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A DISASTER TO EXIST IN MISSOULA AND
MINERAL COUNTIES WITHIN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2024, a severe storm moved through the state impacting communities in western Montana before moving northeast across the state. This storm brought significant straight-line winds with recorded wind speeds of 81mph and gusts of up to 109 mph, toppled trees and power poles and left much of the city of Missoula without power; and

WHEREAS, Missoula City and Missoula and Mineral counties, have reported emergency costs and impacts to critical infrastructure to include water treatment, city buildings, and traffic control systems; and

WHEREAS, Missoula City and Missoula and Mineral counties have enacted emergency or disaster declarations, and activated applicable portions of jurisdictional emergency plans and programs; and

WHEREAS, the storm caused significant damages to electrical infrastructure owned by the rural cooperatives causing tens of thousands of customers of Missoula Electric and Northwestern Energy to lose power, many of whom are still without; and

WHEREAS, the immediate restoration of electrical power was essential to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the affected counties, cities, and towns; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned electrical cooperatives have expended considerable amounts of resources and manpower and have taken all possible actions to respond, mitigate, repair, and alleviate the situation in an expedient manner; and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Coordination Center was activated and coordinated with local, state, and federal agencies throughout the incident period to provide needed resources; and

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary State government services, equipment, and suppliers under this proclamation will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property, and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of disaster authorizes the Governor under Section 10-3-311, MCA, to expend funds from the general fund to meet contingencies and needs arising from these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG GIANFORTE, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Montana Constitution, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and other applicable laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare under § 10-3-302, MCA, that a disaster exists in the State of Montana.

This Order is effective July 26, 2024.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 26th day of July, 2024.



GREG GIANFORTE, Governor

ATTEST:



CHRISTI JACOBSEN, Secretary of State

